

## 8 Coarse Stone Report *by Ann Clarke*

### 8.1 Description

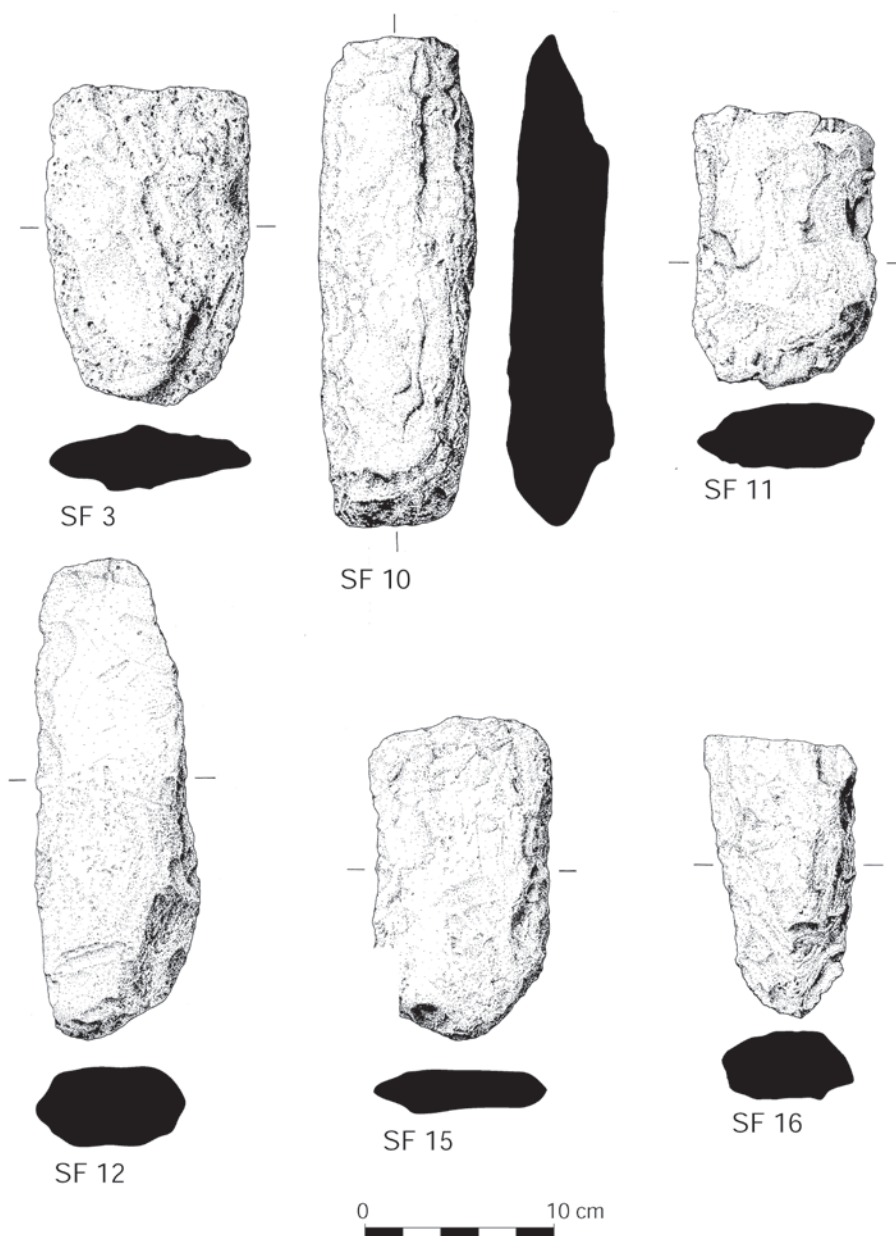
#### 8.1.1 Flaked stone bars

Five flaked stone bars were found (*illus 9*), bearing the typical range of characteristics that are standard to these types (Clarke 2006, 25–33; Clarke forthcoming). Four were made from tabular blanks of sandstone, which were then flaked around the edge to form the required shape, usually a tapering rectangle, with asymmetrically curved working

ends. One flaked stone bar was made from a long cobble (SF12) and a spread of pecking across one face is evidence that it was hafted for use. This was the only piece to show signs of use, with rounding and flaking at the working end.

#### 8.1.2 Ard

One broken ard point was found (*illus 9*). It is flaked all round to form a thick cross-section, has a squared



*Illus 9 The coarse stone tools*

butt and traces of smoothing survive. The working end is very damaged. All indications are that it was broken in use.

### 8.1.3 Flint

One secondary flint flake with a scalar platform was found. All the edges are rounded and the surface is glossy, as if from long-term exposure or rolling.

### 8.1.4 Flaked flagstone

A large stone disc (SF20) was used as a lid for the steatite vessel in Cist 069. The pot lid is 350mm in diameter and is finely made with bifacial flaking around the circumference to shape a circular outline (*illus 5*). The base (073) from this cist was in three fragments, two of which are clearly from the same slab and have been bifacially flaked to form a broad curve.

## 8.2 Context

All of the flaked bars, the ard and the flint were associated with the mound material. Four of the flaked stone bars (SFs 11, 12, 15 & 16) and the secondary flint flake (SF21) were from context 002, the layer of pebbles sealing Structure 2. The other flaked stone bar (SF3) was from the topsoil above Structure 2. The ard point (SF10) is from the turfy, humic layer

(context 001). The flaked flagstone items are from the earliest phase, from Cist 069.

## 8.3 Discussion

Flaked stone bars (or mattocks) and ard points are common finds from Bronze Age kerb cairns. The recent excavations at Linga Fiold had over 50 flaked blanks, which were deposited primarily around the kerbs or edges of the cairns (*Clarke forthcoming*), and in this respect their deposition differs to Loth Road, where the flaked blanks were found within the capping material.

The 350mm diameter stone disc (SF20) was used as a lid for the steatite vessel in Cist 069. A stone disc was also used to seal a steatite urn containing cremated bone in a cist at Orem's Fancy, Stronsay (*Petrie 1870*, 348). The large size of the disc tends to be a pre-Iron Age trait, as at Pool, Sanday (*Clarke 1998*, 145–6). Such large discs usually overhung the vessel (*Clarke 1998*), as it did here (the urn had a maximum diameter of 320mm – see Sharman below). Other stone discs have been found in late Neolithic and Bronze Age funerary contexts in Orkney, as at Sand Fiold, Queenafjold and Linga Fiold (*Ritchie & Ritchie 1974*, 35; *Dalland 1999*, 382–3; *Clarke forthcoming*). The placement of the inurned cremation on slab fragments bifacially flaked to a curve is reminiscent of the placement of the cremation deposit on a 250mm diameter bifacially flaked stone disc in Mound 9 at Linga Fiold (*Downes forthcoming*).